

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

I. Introduction

In the drawings Figure 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 11 as requested by the Examiner. In the specification, paragraphs have been amended on page 8, paragraph 0029.

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-12 and 14-23 are now pending in this application, with claims 17 and 21 being withdrawn from consideration..

II. The Office Action

The Abstract had been objected to because it exceeds 150 words. A new Abstract is being submitted herewith. Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

The drawings stand objected to for failing to show the subject matter of claim 11, namely that the "flat tubes are beaded tubes, with a bead running parallel to the tube longitudinal axis." During this telephone conference on February 19, 2004 the Examiner indicated that the amendments to Figure 1 submitted on December 11, 2003 would be acceptable provided that applicants included a reference numeral to the longitudinal bead. The drawings have been amended herein such that Figure 1 has been amended to include a reference number, 25, for the longitudinal bead. In addition, consistent with the telephone conference, the specification has been amended herein to provide a description for the added subject matter to Figure 1. Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

Claim 11 is objected to because the drawings allegedly do not show the claimed subject matter. Applicants have amended the drawings herein to show the subject matter claimed in claim 11. Therefore, this objection should be withdrawn.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-12, 14-16, 18-20 and 22-23 are allowed.

Applicant believes that the present application, including claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-12, 14-16, 18-20 and 22-23, is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 26 February 2004

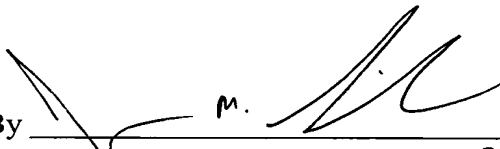

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